

bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

Heralded as the “Nobel Prize of Teaching,” the prestigious Global Teacher Prize shines a spotlight on the critical role that teachers play in our society. Nancie was selected from more than 5,000 nominations received from 120 countries. The candidates were evaluated based on their innovative teaching practices, including their ability to prepare students to be global citizens.

The pool of thousands was narrowed down to a group of 10 remarkable nominees, including teachers from Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Haiti, Malaysia, Cambodia, and the United States. Within this elite group, Nancie Atwell rose above the rest. Nancie has been a teacher since 1973. In 1990, she used money from her own pocket to found the Center for Teaching & Learning, an independent demonstration school that educates students from kindergarten through eighth grade in the small town of Edgecomb. Her vision was to foster a more meaningful education for Maine students. The center serves a close-knit population of approximately 75 students who travel from several surrounding towns because they are attracted to the school’s small class sizes, research-based curriculum, and teacher outreach programs.

In a gesture that exemplifies her deep commitment to her students, Nancie announced that she intends to donate every last penny of the \$1 million prize back to her school to support its resources, scholarships, library, and to replace its worn out furnace.

Nancie, who has authored many books and articles about education and hosted 140 education workshops, embodies a teaching philosophy based on student engagement, not just assignments. She encourages her pupils to identify and pursue their passions. By enabling students to choose to read and write about what interests them, the center has created an environment where children are excited to learn and eager to demonstrate their knowledge.

In addition to teaching students, the center does remarkable work teaching teachers. Educators from other schools regularly visit the center for professional development. Once there, they observe school-wide morning meetings, libraries in every classroom, and student-driven writing workshops. The center facilitates a teacher internship program that pairs visiting educators with teachers at the school. These intern-teachers observe and confer about instruction methods and leave equipped to make substantive changes back in their own schools.

In her acceptance speech, Nancie said:

When children are engaged, when learning is joyful, those are the lessons that stick. Those are the lessons that are worthwhile and meaningful and hang around.

This philosophy has inspired teachers and students alike. In fact, it was one of Nancie’s former students who nominated her for the prize.

Under Nancie’s leadership, the Center for Teaching & Learning has earned national praise. How wonderful it is that Nancie’s work has now earned global recognition. The people of Maine—and especially its students—are fortunate to have such a pioneering and driven educator fighting for a brighter future. Nancie is a remarkable ambassador for both the State of Maine and our country, and I congratulate her on this outstanding accomplishment.

#### RECOGNIZING TONY ALEXANDER

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Tony Alexander, executive chairman of the board of FirstEnergy Corporation. Tony’s 43-year career at FirstEnergy and its predecessor companies was characterized by a commitment to superior customer service, greater value to shareholders, and more opportunities for employees. As FirstEnergy’s longest serving chief executive officer, Tony’s vision, drive, and leadership helped propel the company to the forefront of the energy industry.

Through Tony’s management, Akron-based Ohio Edison quadrupled in size to become today’s FirstEnergy. Over the course of his career, he guided the company through significant mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures; complex regulatory and environmental challenges; and a wide range of operational and financial issues. His willingness to push hard for important ideas and policies made him a strong advocate during one of the most challenging periods in the history of the electric industry.

Tony’s principled leadership has also shown through his tireless work to improve his community. As a recognized leader in his community, he currently serves as an advisor to the boards of trustees for Akron Tomorrow, Team NEO, and the University of Akron. Additionally, he serves on the board of directors and President’s Advancement Council of the Austen BioInnovation Institute.

Tony’s service has not gone without notice. He has been awarded the Dr. Frank L. Simonetti Distinguished Business Alumni Award from the University of Akron—a testament to his community leadership.

I congratulate Tony, his wife Becky, and their four sons for the profound impact he has made throughout his community and the energy industry.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1029. An act to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1191. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1029. An act to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1191. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-941. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dimethomorph; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9923-59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-942. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Boscalid; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9921-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-943. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Professional Standards for State and Local School Nutrition Programs Personnel as Required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” (RIN0584-AE19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-944. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas; Additions in Minnesota, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin” (Docket No. APHIS-2014-0023) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-945. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Homeland Defense and Global Security), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a consolidated